[Mr. K. Krishnan Nayar.]

(*b*) whether there is any precedent for such an arrangement being made for so long a period regarding the control and headship of a Department;

(*c*) whether the present Inspector of Vaidyasalas is a Gazetted Officer;

(*d*) if not, how he was permitted to be in charge of a Department; and

(*e*) whether it is allowable under the rules to permit a non-Gazetted Officer to draw bills or countersign them as in this instance?

MR. P. VISVANATHA AIYAR (*Ag. Secretary to Government*): (*a*) There was no special reason; the arrangement was made only as a temporary measure as the Director was on leave. Subsequently, the question of an Advisory Board was considered, but the idea was dropped. There is no charge arrangement now.

(*b*) The answer is in the negative.

(*c*) The Inspector has since been made a Gazetted Officer.

(*d*) The member is referred to the answer to part (*a*).

(*e*) A non-Gazetted Officer is not ordinarily permitted to draw bills or countersign them; but when he is in charge of the duties of the Head of a Department—a gazetted appointment—he can draw or countersign bills.

MR. K. KRISHNAN NAYAR (*Pattanamtitta*): With regard to part (*e*) may I know whether it is not opposed to the provisions of the *Travancore Service Regulation* to allow a non-gazetted officer to draw bills or to countersign them?

MR. P. VISVANATHA AIYAR (*Ag. Secretary to Government*): The answer is given in part (*e*) itself.

MR. K. KRISHNAN NAYAR (*Pattanamtitta*): May I know whether it is not opposed to the provisions of the *Account Code*?

MR. P. VISVANATHA AIYAR (*Ag. Secretary to Government*): In rare cases it is allowed.

MR. K. KRISHNAN NAYAR (*Pattanamtitta*): Is it allowable under the Code?

MR. P. VISVANATHA AIYAR (*Ag. Secretary to Government*): Yes; it is allowable.

Motor bus collision on the Muvattupuzha-Todupuzha road.

174. MR. K. P. ABRAHAM (*Muvattupuzha cum Todupuzha*): (1) Are the Government aware:

(*a*) that the Muvattupuzha-Todupuzha road is one of regular motor bus service;

(*b*) that the said road is only about 11 feet wide at the 6th furlong of the 9th milestone; and

(*c*) that on that spot there was a motor collision on the 2nd Makaram 1105 which resulted in the death of one person and which formed the subject matter of Sessions cases Nos. 3 and 4 of 1107 in the Parur Sessions Court?

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(2) Will the Government be pleased to state:

(*a*) the least width required for a road to enable two buses running in opposite directions to pass each other; and

(*b*) whether they have taken any steps for improving the condition of the Muvattupuzha-Todupuzha road after the 2nd Makaram 1105?

MR. A. KUMARA PILLAI (*Ag. Secretary to Government*): (1) (*a*) The answer is in the affirmative.

(*b*) The road at the place of accident was only 11 feet wide but the accident took place at the 4th furlong of the 9th mile and not at the 6th furlong.

(*c*) The Chief Engineer says that an extract from the judgment in Sessions case No. 3 on 1107 on the file of the Parur Sessions Court was forwarded to him by the Commissioner of Police and that the latter also suggested the desirability of widening the portion of the road where the accident took place.

(2) (*a*) 15 feet.

(*b*) The Chief Engineer reports that the site has since been widened and that the top width is now 18 feet.

The Periyar Dam.

175. **MR. K. GOPALAKRISHNA PILLAI** (*Parur*): Will the Government be pleased to state:

(*a*) when the Periyar Dam was constructed;

(*b*) whether there was any guarantee as to its stability;

(*c*) if there was one, for how many years it was guaranteed; and

(*d*) whether any arrangement is made for testing its stability from time to time?

MR. A. KUMARA PILLAI (*Ag. Secretary to Government*): (*a*) In the year 1895.

(*b*) and (*c*) The Periyar Dam is a gravity dam; and provided there is no physical change in the materials of its construction or in its foundations, the Dam should remain stable for ever.

(*d*) It is known that the Madras Government have the question of its stability under active observation and have only recently carried out extensive grouting operations to replace with Portland cement the lime contents of the mortar in the Dam which may have been washed out by leakage since the date of its construction.

MR. K. GOPALAKRISHNA PILLAI (*Parur*): With regard to the answer to part (*d*), may I know whether our Government has anything to do with the inspection of the dam?

MR. A. KUMARA PILLAI (*Ag. Secretary to Government*): This Government has nothing to do with the inspection of of the dam except writing to the British Government.

MR. K. GOPALAKRISHNA PILLAI (*Parur*): Have we no right even to inspect the condition of the dam?

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